

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRIDGE 02567 131737Z
ACTION SCS-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-15 ISO-00 CA-01 H-02 L-03 SSO-00 /028 W
-----120086 131741Z /64

O 131705Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6183

UNCLAS BRIDGETOWN 2567

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC (FINNEY, LINDA NEE TOWNSEND)

SUBJ: W/W LINDA FINNEY NEE TOWNSEND

REF: STATE 230959

CONGRESSMAN ROBERT W. DANIEL, JR. INTERESTED

1. BEGIN SUMMARY EMBASSY CONTACTED LINDA FINNEY 9/12 AT FAMILY'S REQUEST, FAILED TO FIND ANY EVIDENCE OF WRONGDOING, AND PUT HER IN PHONE CONTACT WITH MOTHER. END SUMMARY

2. ON 9/11 EMB RECVD CALL FROM IRIS TOWNSEND, LINDA'S MOTHER, RELATING ESSENTIALLY SAME STORY GIVEN SCS. WE CONTACTED GRENADIAN AUTHORITIES AND ASKED THEM TO CHECK ON LINDA, BUT SINCE NO DEFINITE RESPONSE RECVD BY AFTERNOON OF 9/11 IT WAS DECIDED TO SEND CONSOFF TO GRENADA ON NEXT AVAILABLE FLIGHT. CONSOFF ARRIVED GRENADA MORNING OF 9/12 AND CONTACTED STEVEN AND LINDA FINNEY. LINDA (A LAWYER) APPEARED TO BE RATIONAL AND ACTING OF HER OWN FREE WILL. SHE EXPLAINED MOTHER WAS HARASSING HER BECAUSE SHE OBJECTED TO MARRIAGE PERFORMED IN BARBADOS DURING DAUGHTER'S VACATION. MR. & MRS. FERRIS STATED THAT LOCAL POLICE HAD SEARCHED HOUSE THEY WERE RENTING EARLY THAT MORNING LOOKING FOR DRUGS AND/OR WEAPONS BUT HAD FOUND NOTHING
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AND HAD NOT DETAINED THEM. LINDA ALSO SAID THAT SHE HAD MADE ARRANGEMENTS TO RETURN TO U.S. BECAUSE MOTHER HAD INFORMED HER THAT FATHER WAS CRITICALLY ILL. SHE SUSPECTED THIS WAS RUSE TO GET HER BACK TO U.S. BUT WANTED TO BE THERE IF IN FACT ILLNESS WAS REAL. MR. FERRIS (A WRITER) PLANNED TO REMAIN IN CARIBBEAN TO WORK ON A BOOK UNLESS LINDA ASKED HIM TO COME TO

U.S. AFTER HER ARRIVAL.

3. CONSOFF THEN ACCOMPANIED COUPLE ON FLIGHT BACK TO BARBADOS AND HELPED LINDA CHECK IN EARLY AND OBTAIN BOARDING PASS FOR AFTERNOON FLIGHT TO NYC. FINNEYS AGREED TO COME TO CONSUL'S OFFICE DURING 4 HR WAIT FOR FLIGHT. IN OFFICE CONSUL PLACED CALL TO IRIS TOWNSEND, AND MOTHER AND DAUGHTER HAD LONG AND HEATED DISCUSSION. CONSUL THEN SUGGESTED THAT MR. FINNEY CHANGE PLANS AND ACCOMPANY WIFE TO U.S. TO CLEAR U.S. CUSTOMS ALLEGATIONS AGAINST HIM. FINNEY WAS NONCOMMITTAL, BUT LEFT EMBASSY WITH PLENTY OF TIME TO CATCH FLIGHT TO U.S. EMBASSY HAS HAD NO CONTACT FROM ANY OF THE PARTIES INVOLVED SINCE THAT TIME AND PLANS NO FURTHER ACTION, AS THIS SEEMS TO BE FAMILY SQUABBLE. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT MRS. FERRIS WAS PHYSICALLY SEPERATED FROM HER HUSBAND SEVERAL TIMES WHILE IN COMPANY OF CONSOFF, INCLUDING WHILE IN EMBASSY OFFICES, AND NEVER GAVE AN INDICATION THAT SHE WAS BEING HELD AGAINST HER WILL. WHILE MRS. FERRIS WAS VERY NERVOUS AND ANXIOUS, SHE DID NOT APPEAR TO BE UNDER INFLUENCE OF HARD DRUGS.

4. ROBERT MCBRIEN CALLED EMB 9/12, IDENTIFIED HIMSELF AS TREASURY OFFICIAL, AND REQUESTED ID DATA ON STEVEN FERRIS. WHEN MR. FERRIS LEFT CONSUL'S OFFICE CABLE WAS IMMEDIATELY SENT TO TREASURY WITH UNCLASSIFIED

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IDENTIFYING DATA, AND THEY WERE TOLD THAT FERRIS MIGHT BE ARRIVING ON EVENING FLIGHT TO NYC. EMB WOULD APPRECIATE BEING NOTIFIED WHETHER FERRIS IS IN FACT SUSPECTED OR GUILTY OF CRIMINAL ACTS. BARBADOS AND GRENADIAN IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES HELPED US TRACE FERRIS, AND MAY LOOK UPON HIM WARILY WHEN HE NEXT TRIES TO ENTER BARBADOS OR GRENADA. IF HIS RECORD IS CLEAN WE WOULD LIKE TO PASS THIS INFO TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES SO THAT HE UNDERGOES NO UNWARRANTED DELAYS.

5. NO PRIVACY ACT AUTHORIZATION WAS OBTAINED FROM MRS. FERRIS, SINCE EMB PUT HER IN DIRECT CONTACT WITH MOTHER.
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Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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